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Man calls in AK-47 assault threat on La Porte elementary schools



By: Craig Hlavaty

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La Porte ISD enacted a "multi-hazard shelter-in-place drill" for their elementary schools Friday morning after the La Porte Police Department was notified of a noteworthy, non-specific, and not-yet-credible threat against one of the schools.

Word of the threat arrived shortly before 9 a.m., according to officials and an all-clear was announced just after 12 p.m.

La Porte police spokesman Sgt. John Krueger said the threat had come from a Houston-based tip line used to report crime. "An adult male called and said that he had an AK-47 and that he was going to shoot up an elementary school," said Krueger. The man didn't specify which school but the phone number was tracked by the FBI and "pinged" to find its location.

This narrowed the location of the man's cell phone to the Pasadena and La Porte area. Officials next got a positive trace back to a Holiday Inn motel in La Porte off Hwy 146. Motel management worked with law enforcement to determine which room the man was in. Repeated calls to the man's cell phone and his room were not answered. A SWAT perimeter closed in around the room and the man was taken into custody when he left the room. No weapons were found in his room or on his person.

He's currently being questioned by La Porte police and the FBI and is said to be cooperating with the investigation. His name has not been released.

La Porte ISD continued on with the shelter-in-place drill even after the man was in handcuffs. "The school district ran the drill as a precaution and because they needed to do one," said Kruger. Off-duty officers and detectives arrived at the schools to act as extra support to schools that needed it, at the request of La Porte ISD.